Funds for NDDB

1534. SHRI ABANI ROY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have provided funds to NDDB since its inception;

(b) if so, the total funds allocated by Government to NDDB since its inception, till date;

(c) whether the NDDB has not been permitting Government to conduct audit of their accounts;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(e) what immediate steps Government have decided to take to audit the accounts of NDDB?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The information is being collected.

(c) to (e) The audit of accounts of National Dairy Development Board is being conducted as per provisions in the National Dairy Development Board Act, 1987. The Government of India *vide* memo dated 6.6.97 conveyed the approval of the President to the Comptroller and Auditor General of India to undertake audit of accounts of National Dairy Development Board for the period 1988-89 to 1995-96 as per provisions in section 14(2) of the Comptroller and Auditor General (Duties, Powers and Conditions of Service) Act, 1971, NDDB has filed a civil writ petition in the High Court of Delhi. The implementation of the order dated 6.6.1997 has been stayed. The decision of the High Court is still awaited.

Shrimp Culture

1535. SHRI YADLAPATI VENKAT RAO: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a deadly white spot disease has taken a heavy toll in the shrimp culture across all the ten maritime States in the country; and

(b) if so, the assistance proposed to be given to 1.5 lakh farmers engaged in shrimp culture to bring them above the poverty line?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) The white spot disease in shrimp aquaculture has been reported from the maritime States in the country, causing an estimated production loss of about 10,000—15,000 tonnes of shrimp.

(b) To assist shrimp farmers in the better management of their farms and to prevent disease outbreaks and shrimp mortalities, technical assistance is provided through laboratory facilities to select disease free healthy seeds. Training is imparted to Fisheries Extension Officers and shrimp farmers on early diagnosis of disease and health management practices. Guidelines have been issued on pond preparation, water and feed management, stocking, application of pro-biotics, etc. Demonstration programmes and publicity campaigns are also organised for educating shrimp farmers on best management practices. A revised Insurance Scheme *viz.* Market Agreement on Aquaculture (Shrimp/Prawn) Insurance is being implemented by the General Insurance Corporation of India and its subsidiaries which provides for a comprehensive cover for loss due to disease.

Cow Slaughter

†1536. SHRI ONKAR SINGH LAKHAWAT: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to convene a meeting of State Governments for Uniform legislation in the country to stop the cow slaughter;

(b) if so, by when;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether Government are aware of the sentiments of public regarding cow slaughter; and

(e) if so, action taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Question does not arise.

(c) As enjoined by Article 246(3) of the Constitution, the preservation of cattle is a matter on which the State has exclusive power to legislate.

(d) Yes, Sir.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.